

January 13, 2003

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**Wheeler Bridge Replacement Project
WDID No. 1A0205WNSI**

Siskiyou County

On December 20, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Franklin Engineering, representing Dr. Darryl Wheeler, requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the Wheeler Bridge Replacement Project in Siskiyou County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated Schulmeyer Gulch and the Klamath River Hydrologic Unit No. 105.00. This project is located in Section 13, Township 44 North, Range 7 West, MDB&M, in Yreka, California.

The project proposes to remove an existing wooden bridge and replace it with a railroad flatcar bridge. The new bridge will consist of two 10-foot wide by 50-foot long railcars. The bridge will have the same purpose and capacity of the existing structure. The roadway will be widened for the new bridge, and the gulch channel will be cleaned out. Concrete will not be used in the waterway. The project will require the use of backhoes, excavators and tractors.

The total area of permanent impact to wetlands is 0.13 acre. This project does not involve dredge or fill activities within the gulch channel.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. All work will be performed during a period of no stream flow.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as the lead agency, has determined that this project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 15302, Class 2.

This Project will begin in early 2003 and is expected to be complete in one week. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Miguel Villicana at (707) 576-2347, or at villm@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.